

CLAIMS

1. A device (R_A) for accessing a telecommunication network (N) comprising

- 5 ◦ means for transmitting data flows between at least one first telecommunication client (A) connected to the said telecommunication network by means of an access network (N_A) possessing throughput performances lower than the said telecommunication network (N) and at least one
10 second telecommunication client (B, S) accessible through the said telecommunication network (N), the said information flows being organised in sessions, each data flow of one and the same
15 session providing communication between the same telecommunication clients; and
- degradation means for degrading at least one quality parameter of at least one of the said data flows in order to compensate for the
20 difference in throughputs between the said telecommunication network and the said access network,

characterised in that the said degradation means make use of a module associated with each session, for carrying out
25 the said degradation, the said module being determined by the said first client (A).

2. An access device according to Claim 1, in which the said module principally consists of executable code
30 allowing the degradation of the said at least one quality parameter.

3. An access device according to Claim 2, in which the said module is transmitted in the payload of an active packet transmitted by the said first client (A).

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4. An access device according to Claim 2, in which the said module is downloaded from a code server and identified by an identifier contained in an active packet transmitted by the said first client.

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5. An access device according to Claim 1, in which the said module principally consists of a set of tables giving the correspondence, for each data flow of the said session, between the quality parameters and the impacts of a degradation of these quality parameters on the quality of the said data flow.

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6. An access device according to Claim 1, in which the said module principally consists of a set of mathematical expressions linking, for each data flow of the said session, the quality parameters and the impacts of a degradation of these quality parameters on the quality of the said data flow.

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7. An access device according to Claim 1, in which the said first client determines the said module in cooperation with the end user, in particular by means of configuration parameters.

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8. An access device according to Claim 1, in which the said module consists of a set of policy rules supplied by a policy server.

- 5 9. An access device according to the preceding claim, in which the communications with the policy server conform to the CORBA protocol.